

Eastern Idaho State Park Selection Committee
Tuesday, June 13, 2006
Centennial Court Room
Bonneville County Courthouse
650 North Capital Avenue, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401

Committee members:

<input type="checkbox"/> Archibald, Kari	<input type="checkbox"/> Benfield, Donna	<input type="checkbox"/> Christensen, Roger	<input type="checkbox"/> Clark, Trent
<input type="checkbox"/> Davis, Sen. Bart	<input type="checkbox"/> Gagner, Lee	<input type="checkbox"/> Groberg, Joseph	<input type="checkbox"/> Guthrie, Jim
<input type="checkbox"/> Hall, Laura	<input type="checkbox"/> Hancey, Doug	<input type="checkbox"/> Hibbert, Farhana	<input type="checkbox"/> Hill, Sen. Brent
<input type="checkbox"/> Jenkins, Tadd	<input type="checkbox"/> Larsen, Shawn	<input type="checkbox"/> McDevitt, Jean	<input type="checkbox"/> Muir, Roger
<input type="checkbox"/> Shirley, Rep. Mack	<input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Elaine		

Technical Assistance:

<input type="checkbox"/> Just, Rick	<input type="checkbox"/> Meinen, Bob	<input type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Garth
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- I. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. with welcoming comments by Senator Bart Davis
Committee members made self-introductions
- II. Additional welcoming remarks by IDPR Director Bob Meinen
- III. PowerPoint presentation by Rick Just spotlighting IDPR parks located across Idaho, leading to the observation that two areas are underrepresented by a state park, one being wilderness; the other, Eastern Idaho
Mission: Review potential state park sites in Eastern Idaho and make a recommendation to the Governor and Idaho Park and Recreation Board regarding the preferred site for a state park.
- IV. Questions and Discussion about presentation
 - Q: In the process of developing the Ashton-Tetonia Trail as a state park, do you have a map? Are you acquiring Right-of-Ways (ROWs)?
 - A: The conversion of the old Union Pacific railroad to a trail extending from Ashton to Tetonia continues. Where necessary, we are in negotiations with property owners regarding ROWs. There is a Rails-to-Trails grant, IDPR is finishing the guidelines, working on trestles to make them safe, and making the trail available to the public.
 - Q: How important is it for the land inside a park to be contiguous?
 - A: Parks are best managed if they are contiguous, but some parks are not, yet they are still managed well. Most "trail" parks have staff strategically situated along the trail. Easements may be in place where areas are owned by private landowners. Other situations may call for conservation measures as seen with landowner grazing opportunities.
 - Q: Does the State own all of the land within a park or does it hold cooperative agreements with owners?
 - A: There are parks that we manage, but do not own, so there are many arrangements. For example, IDPR manages sites owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Some of our state parks have private land within the park, but there not a lot of these situations. We actively work with all neighbors National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, BOR as well as private landowners around our parks; we make every effort to be good neighbors. We work with people well.
 - Q: Does the type [reference to park classification] of park drive the selection process or is it the other way around? Do we even have a feel for this?
 - A: It will depend on the individual site nominated. We will need to think about the recommended components. What might be missing that people would be looking for in a

park? We will need to balance it out. The more you look at two, three, or four-season (spring, summer, fall, winter) parks, the more successful it would be. Look toward future recreation, and look for opportunities where needs aren't being met. That is your job.

V. Review of Committee Charter by Senator Davis

A. Aims and Objectives: Are there others you would like to add?

1. With regard to "size, location, and role" add: multi-use. Create a park that would cover more seasons and meet the needs of as many people as possible.
2. Resources must be available to ferret out our decisions. GIS database is complete. Staff is available to put together additional information.
3. Regarding: resources. Elected officials would know where we stand. IDPR would assemble community contacts that could also help gather information. Recommend to IDPR that Rexburg and Ashton participate in review of selection before it is final. Utilize already existing resources. Think: Are you aware of things that have already been done in your area? All cities have comprehensive plans but not necessarily in recreation. They usually only look at what people think the city would do.
4. Develop our set of guidelines: Access – Population Centers – Cost

Q: In terms of looking at process, really, where do we start? We need those criteria.

A: You have information in the next section. You have information and help to gather this. Staff will help to bring together and identify what we want to target and to review.

B. Criteria of Success: (items read through)

1. Set up working target and goal for next meeting.

C. Assumptions: (items read through)

1. Be cognizant of the purpose of city recreation plans. We don't want to make recommendations that might be in conflict with the city or the county

D. Constraints: (items read through)

1. No comments

Q: When will the Charter be finalized?

A: We will reflect and make adjustments before next meeting. It will not be a "Draft." It will be ready for signature.

VI. Committee communication

Q: Is staff available to look into city questions? Can this be done or is it to be channeled through Senator Davis? How do we communicate?

A: Committee members have e-mail, we will continue to communicate electronically. This may increase communication among committee members. Ask any questions you have. Send to "all" with questions initially directed to Rick Just who will run the question to ground and get back to you with meaningful information. Ask Rick, cc: all.

For the public to get information: make both questions and answers available to the public. Rick has the entire list of committee members. Onus is on Rick Just that entire committee receives submitted Q&A. He will restate the questions and get it out to everyone.

Q: If someone contacts any one of us with a question or a possible site, do we answer individually or what?

A: If you have the interest, respond as an individual, and pass the information on to Rick. A site recommendation will go on the list of possible places to consider. Ultimately, the committee will travel to see the proposed sites. If the Press contacts you, feel free to express your own opinion, but the committee will speak collectively. Send questions to Senator Davis or the committee Co-chair, Doug Hancey.

Meeting minutes will be posted on the web site.

Recommendation of Decision

Q: Do we need something more detailed or will minutes be enough?

A: Only need detail if interest is desired. Summary of minutes should be sufficient.

Website button on the opening IDPR page instructs you to continue to the Park Selection Committee's website. In the lower left corner is a button. Look for Eastern Idaho or Eagle Island. You will find everything there. (Note: Rick will email access particulars to committee.)

The website will include how to nominate a park site. It will ask "why" you nominate a particular site. Encourage public to make their suggestions known. Rick will send out nominated sites immediately. Have a mechanism by which we involve the public. Their nominations are valuable, ideas will be forwarded. Will have it so that you send the ideas via a form, probably in the form of a question. Framed in such a way for easy access. Questions would be designed to be self-leading.

Q: Do we have any input for people who are in outdoor recreation? Can we get their take on these needs.

A: A bullet will be designed for their thoughts.

Bob Meinen, Rick Just, and Garth Taylor have contacts with these people. Doug Hancey serves on committees. We will work with them in many places and will not close them out. We will go to persons in the recreational arena, talk to users and owners.

We will ask agencies to appoint an ex-officio member to sit in meeting.

IDPR need guidelines from the Committee to make this move to have representative sit in. NFS, BLM, BOR members—hearing no objections we authorize IDPR to pursue agency representation.

VII. Public Process

A. Application process: we should design encouraging parameters for any suggestions. Include series of questions about the recommendation that is made to reveal ownership; site contact person, why it is being recommended, what type of classification would you propose, will park be accessible, multi-use supported, ask staff to prepare a draft survey form. Get it out to all committee members, who will give opinions, then get forms out on Internet for people to use. Internet accessible form should also provide information, broaden the knowledge base of the person filling it out. Internet can define terms and explain what we mean.

B. Public participation (adding to agenda)

What do we want in each committee meeting?

What period of time to hear suggestions from the public?

C. General input: submit press release on what occurred and encourage people to go to the web site. Ask media to print this in the newspapers also (for those without internet access)

Q: Are we planning some type of public meetings? Not full community meetings but just public meetings? How and where do you want us to penetrate communities?

Regarding Park Site Committee: When and where do we meet? Consider each meeting in different places.

Q: At what point would it be appropriate to involve the public? Two comment periods: 1st to gather information, 2nd future comments to narrow the process and have final input.

Q: In this area the Harriman experience and Henrys Lake get noticed. We all should be thinking of other kinds of parks. Do we need to have some explanation to the public through press releases to get broader thinking?

Q: How can we get the word out? We know people in multi-use activities. Is it possible to identify individuals and invite them to make proposal?

Q: Design a way to evaluate criteria on web site that would weed out things that cannot be done. Consider seriously which proposals.

Bob: Let's allow Rick Just to do a draft form, we look at it, get back to the committee with advice. Having organized website in paper form would help achieve wider distribution. Give best estimation through workbook process. Committee only looks at best nominees. To achieve this, the review staff works the list down to appropriate sites, returns to Park Selection Committee, regroups, and goes to the public with selected options. IDPR staff can help with the resources.

Q: What is the time frame to report back to JFAC and Governor? How much time do we have?

A: Early fall. JFAC has fall meeting. Bob would like to have something in the way of an update.

Review: Rick Just develops application, puts deadline on this. [Side comment: Don't take too long. Many user groups are waiting to get started.] Gather information, and then determine the criteria for the site. Get the public busy on gathering data and possibilities. After we get information, we will have a better idea of the public needs. We want to know what people in Eastern Idaho are really talking about. At the next meeting, we will narrow the time frames and have only serious suggestions in, send a formal invitation to user groups. [Side comment: It was cautioned that we not set too strict a criterion that would discourage people's suggestions.]

Who else would we like to have be ex-officio? Please submit your suggestions. They will be invited to participate.

Suggestion: Start with all ideas and narrow it down. We have 3 months and need to move quickly. Inventory of proposed sites for the recreation opportunities. Recommend another meeting in 3 or 4 weeks, when decision is made on final park to the public with goals and timeframe. September 1 is not realistic; start narrowing down before the fall meeting. JFAC meets round September 15. Bob just wants a progress report, not a final decision selection made. Final recommendation by: set goal to make a recommendation to next Legislative session. Last Park Board meeting of the year is the October 25, with the deadline for material for the agenda on Oct. 4. December is the end of this committee.

Next meeting is set for July 18 – Tuesday

Madison County courthouse

Commissioners' room at 6 pm. unless otherwise notified.

Final approval of outreach tool: get something out now. We may have better tools at the meeting in July. Rick will continue to re-publish on the website. Forward all things to Rick Just on the net. Web design group takes 7-10 days to make the tool. Encourage nomination now; it will contribute to a better form as we go. ASAP we need to get something up – with improvements along the way.

Q: Regarding suggested sites: would it be appropriate of IDPR to ferret them out, get background if not enough information is initially provided? What about donations?

A. Information is voluntarily given, sometimes we can't accurately identify the exact site, but every attempt will be made.

A: All philanthropic items will be considered and encouraged.

Who What When Where

How long to submit suggestions? July 18 we will set that date but suggestions will continue to be gathered.

Site continues to be open for new ideas, then set schedule for October meeting. We'll work out the outline of how we will work the timeline to the end of recommendations. RJ gives criteria, we ratify by email deadline of August 1. Then perfect form approve final pool of information July 18 to October 1 get time frame, narrow down sites, don't bunch at the end, work backwards from deadline

Hesitate to set a finale date now. August 1 deadline for the public, July 18 – mid-August next meeting

Trent: If we find that we are not getting what we are looking for and may find that we have to go out and prompt people to get ideas.

A: Would it help if IDPR sent out press releases asking public to give sites suggestion, come to the next meeting, set up town meetings, not community areas covered. Make our role as committee members better. We need to be proactive. Speak at committees that you serve on, tell them about the form and ask their input, encourage all you meet with to participate. Not that many meetings are already formed. Become more proactive at all meetings.

Not comfortable submitting any proposal without on-site visit in the summer. Do not wait too long for site visits.

Question our process – comprehensive planning of what others want? High points through study (Rick distributed two handouts)

Public Input from audience:

John Hart Director of Economic and Community Development in Jefferson County.

Suggestion: There is a lot of representation from Idaho Falls and Rexburg. None from Jefferson County.

Would you consider having a Jefferson County person at the table?

Senator Davis: Are you volunteering?

Hart's response: Would be willing. Jefferson County is planning to submit a proposal. Attending the meeting to learn the process and follow the rules in the correct way.

Kevin VanMart commented: He has written a letter suggesting ideas. He's interested in knowing that we get what we want, not in settling for whatever we can get. The Park site committee's process is very good. Get more public input, stay in the public eye.

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 p.m.